

**Claims:**

**1. A filter assembly, comprising:**

a container for containing filter media, and  
a three way valve coupled to said container,  
said three way valve having a water inlet, a water outlet, a waste water outlet,  
and a flow diverter,

said flow diverter being movable to a filter position, in which water from a body of water is fed via said water inlet through said container in a first direction to effect filtering of said water and back to said water outlet for return to said body of water, a rinse position, in which water from a body of water is fed via said water inlet through said container in said first direction to effect filtering of said water and back to said waste water outlet for removal from said body of water, and a backwash position, in which water from a body of water is fed via said water inlet through said container in a reverse direction to said first direction to effect backwashing of said filter media and back to said waste water outlet for removal from said body of water.

**2. The filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein:**

the flow diverter has means for diverting water both horizontally and vertically.

**3. The filter assembly according to claim 1, further comprising:**

a manually operable agitator located in said container and coupled to a handle outside said container.

4. The filter assembly according to claim 3, further comprising:  
a UV sterilizer coupled to said agitator and said handle.
5. The filter assembly according to claim 2, wherein:  
said flow diverter includes a discontinuous cylinder.
6. A filter assembly, comprising:  
a container for containing filter media, and  
a three way valve,  
said three way valve having a water inlet, a water outlet, a waste water outlet,  
and a flow diverter, wherein  
said flow diverter includes a discontinuous cylinder.
7. The filter assembly according to claim 6, wherein:  
the flow diverter has means for diverting water both horizontally and vertically.
8. The filter assembly according to claim 6, further comprising:  
a manually operable agitator located in said container and coupled to a handle  
outside said container.
9. The filter assembly according to claim 8, further comprising:  
a UV sterilizer coupled to said agitator and said handle.

10. A filter assembly, comprising:

a container for containing filter media, and

a three way valve,

said three way valve having a water inlet, a water outlet, a waste water outlet,

and a flow diverter, wherein

said flow diverter has means for diverting water both horizontally and vertically.

11. The filter assembly according to claim 10, further comprising:

a manually operable agitator located in said container and coupled to a handle outside said container.

12. The filter assembly according to claim 11, further comprising:

a UV sterilizer coupled to said agitator and said handle.

13. A filter assembly, comprising:

a substantially cylindrical container for holding filter media, said container having a central axis;

an agitator assembly having an axis of rotation substantially coaxial with said central axis; and

a removable cover, said removable cover having a handle, said handle being coupled to said agitator for rotating said agitator assembly about said axis of rotation thereof in a reciprocating manner.

14. The filter assembly according to claim 13, further comprising:

a UV sterilizer, said UV sterilizer being arranged substantially coaxial with said central axis,

filter media disposed in said container above said agitator; and

a three way valve coupled to said cover.

15. The filter assembly according to claim 14, wherein:

said UV sterilizer is coupled to said agitator and said handle.

16. The filter assembly according to claim 15, wherein:

said UV sterilizer has an outer tube and an inner UV lamp defining an annular fluid flow path.

17. A three way valve for use with a water filter, said valve comprising:

a water inlet,

a water outlet,

a waste water outlet, and

a flow diverter, said flow diverter having means for diverting the flow of water both horizontally and vertically.

18. The valve according to claim 17, wherein:

said flow diverter includes a discontinuous cylinder.

19. The valve according to claim 18, wherein:

said discontinuous cylinder is defined by three cylinder segments.

20. The valve according to claim 19, wherein:

said flow diverter has three fluid pathways defined by said three cylinder segments and a fourth fluid pathway substantially perpendicular to said three fluid pathways.

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